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**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

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In re: : Chapter 11  
W.R. GRACE & CO., et al : Case No. 01-01139 (JKF)  
Debtors. : Jointly Administered  
: Claim No. 00005554

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**RESPONSE TO DEBTORS' FIFTEENTH OMNIBUS  
OBJECTION (SUBSTANTIVE) TO ASBESTOS PROPERTY DAMAGE CLAIMS**

On behalf of claimant, Danny James Freebury (Claim No. 00005554), his attorneys, Tom L. Lewis and Mark M. Kovacich of Lewis, Slovak & Kovacich, P.C., respond to Debtors' Fifteenth Omnibus Objection (Substantive) to Asbestos Property Damage Claims as follows:

1. Claimant can be contacted via his attorneys, Tom L. Lewis or Mark M. Kovacich, 725 Third Avenue North, Great Falls, Montana; telephone (406) 761-5595.
2. Claimant's claim is with respect to asbestos contamination from a Grace product in or on the property, to wit: asbestos-contaminated vermiculite from the W.R. Grace mine near Libby, Montana and/or from the W.R. Grace mining activities in and around the Libby community. Claimant's property is a residence located at 1302 Airth Avenue in Libby, Montana.
3. Claimant's claim is based upon the findings of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in its Administrative Record and supplement, test results, and other documentation, as

well as information obtained from other sources.

4. Claimant consented to the production and release of supporting documentation in the possession of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to Grace and Grace's representatives at the time of submission of his property damage proof of claim in March 2003.

5. Claimant provided the supporting documentation, available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Libby office, to Grace and Grace's representatives as an attachment to his Response to Debtors' Second Omnibus Objection to Claims (Non-Substantive), filed on August 8, 2003.

6. Claimant provided the supporting documentation, available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Libby office, to Grace and Grace's representatives as an attachment to his Response to Debtors' Fourteenth Omnibus Objection to Claims (Non-Substantive), filed on October 6, 2005.

**Claimant's Responses to Debtors' Specific Objections**

**C-1(d): Installation of Product, Knowledge of Asbestos in Product, Knowledge of Asbestos on Property, and/or Prior Asbestos-Related Lawsuits/Claims.**

Grace indicates the claim form is deficient for failure to provide one or more pieces of information on a multitude of topics. Grace fails to identify with particularity which purported deficiency applies to claimant's claim. The burden of objection rests with Grace. Grace's generalized objection practice fails to sufficiently notify claimant of any respective objections. Further, Grace's objection presumes that written documentation exists. Claimant has made every effort to furnish all documentary information in claimant's possession to support the property damage claim. See the information previously provided as well as the Appendix for Claimants' Responses to Debtors' Fifteenth Omnibus Objection (Substantive) to Asbestos Property Damage Claims ("Appendix") attached to Response to Debtors' Fifteenth Omnibus Objection (Substantive)

to Asbestos Property Damage Claims, Claim Number 00004712 (George James Bauer). Finally, the W.R. Grace & Co. Asbestos Property Damage Proof of Claim Form authorizes Grace, upon reasonable request, to obtain copies of any supporting documents from parties in possession of the same. As applied to claimant, Grace has made no such request.

In his proof of claim form, claimant stated that he did not install the asbestos-containing vermiculite found on his property and he does not have any documentation referencing the installation. Claimant has provided all relevant information in his possession regarding the asbestos-containing materials on his property.

#### **C-2: Documentation Regarding Purchase, Installation, Presence, and/or Removal**

Grace indicates the claim form is deficient for failure to provide one or more pieces of information on a multitude of topics. Grace fails to identify with particularity which purported deficiency applies to claimant's claim. The burden of objection rests with Grace. Grace's generalized objection practice fails to sufficiently notify claimant of any respective objections. Further, Grace's objection presumes that written documentation exists. Claimant has made every effort to furnish all documentary information in claimant's possession to support the property damage claim. See the information previously provided as well as the Appendix attached to the response to Grace's present objections in Claim Number 00004712 (George James Bauer). Finally, the W.R. Grace & Co. Asbestos Property Damage Proof of Claim Form authorizes Grace, upon reasonable request, to obtain copies of any supporting documents from parties in possession of the same. As applied to claimant, Grace has made no such request.

Claimant does not have any documentation addressing the installation or placement of asbestos-contaminated vermiculite upon his property. Claimant acknowledged this in the proof of claim form filed in March 2003. Claimant has provided copies of the documents received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency documenting the presence of asbestos-containing

vermiculite on his property. See the information previously provided as well as the Appendix attached to the response to Grace's present objections in Claim Number 00004712 (George James Bauer).

### **C-3(e): Documents Regarding Product Identification**

Grace's objection presumes that written documentation exists. Claimant has made every effort to furnish all documentary information in claimant's possession to support the property damage claim. Claimant has provided copies of the documents received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency documenting the substantial presence of asbestos-contaminated vermiculite on his property in at least the yard, garden, flowerbeds, and mortar in and/or around the chimney. See the information previously provided as well as the Appendix attached to the response to Grace's present objections in Claim Number 00004712 (George James Bauer). Further, the W.R. Grace & Co. Asbestos Property Damage Proof of Claim Form authorizes Grace, upon reasonable request, to obtain copies of any supporting documents from parties in possession of the same. As applied to claimant, Grace has made no such request.

### **E-1: Sampling Reports**

Claimant has provided all documents in his possession furnished by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pertaining to claimant's property. These documents, as well as the information provided in the Appendix attached to the response to Grace's present objections in Claim Number 00004712 (George James Bauer), confirm the existence of asbestos-contaminated vermiculite on his property and/or identify the hazardous propensities of asbestos-contaminated vermiculite. Grace's objection references damages subject to personal injury actions. Claimant's claim does not implicate personal injury damages. While claimant disputes Grace's claim that he "has not established that any health hazard exists," claimant need not establish the existence of a "health hazard" to prevail on a property damage claim.

Whether the "mere presence" of asbestos-contaminated vermiculite gives rise to personal injury damages is of no consequence. The presence of asbestos-contaminated vermiculite and/or other asbestos-contaminated materials has resulted in property damages as previously articulated. The damages include, but are not limited to, loss of use of claimant's property, the cost of restoration, and loss of value. The Court should not dismiss such claims based on the existence or absence of air sampling tests.

## **G-2: Categorizing Claims**

The proof of claim form was filled out to the best of claimant's ability. However, the "Claim Category" request in the proof of claim form is largely ambiguous with respect to the claimants from Libby, Montana. The Libby residents have suffered asbestos exposure from both asbestos-contaminated Grace products and Grace mining/milling/processing operations. Grace encouraged employees and residents of the Libby area to use asbestos-containing vermiculite in their gardens and homes. Additionally, Grace's mining/milling/processing activities subjected Libby properties to asbestos contamination in the form of particulate fall-out and otherwise.

Relevant documents confirm the existence of asbestos-contaminated vermiculite on claimant's property and/or identify the hazardous propensities of asbestos-contaminated vermiculite. See the information previously provided as well as the Appendix attached to the response to Grace's present objections in Claim Number 00004712 (George James Bauer). Specifically, the documents indicate claimant's property has asbestos-contaminated materials in at least the garden, yard, flowerbeds, and mortar in and/or around the chimney. Some, if not all, of this asbestos contamination stems from asbestos product, consistent with the "Claim Category" identified in claimant's proof of claim form. If the Court determines claimant has incorrectly classified the claim, claimant requests that the Court reclassify it accordingly. Note that Grace has urged the same resolution.

Grace identifies claimant's property as one which has been remediated, subjecting his property damage claim to dismissal. The remediation to which Grace refers is that conducted by the U.S. EPA. However, in the documents previously provided and attached in the aforementioned Appendix, the EPA acknowledges that: (1) its efforts are geared toward health-based standards, (2) it does not generally perform full remediation, (3) it deliberately fails to remove some asbestos contamination, and (4) post-remediation inspections have revealed continuing asbestos contamination. While remediation geared towards health-based standards may have some relevance in personal injury claims, it maintains little relevance in the property damage arena. That is, the standards concede that some asbestos contamination will remain on the property, furthering loss of use, devaluation, and restoration costs. In short, remediation as defined by the EPA does not translate to restoration to pre-contamination state. Even after any purported EPA remediation, claimant's property will continue to experience asbestos contamination. Claimant will continue to suffer property damages as long as Grace's asbestos contamination remains on his property. Further, to the extent the EPA has attempted remediation of claimant's property, the remediation does not reconcile past damages, including loss of use prior to completion of the purported remediation.

Respectfully submitted this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2005.

Lewis, Slovak & Kovacich, P.C.

By: KM  
PM Mark M. Kovacich  
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(Attorneys for Claimant)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and legible copy of the foregoing Response to Debtors' Fifteenth

Omnibus Objection to Claims (Non-Substantive) was served on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2005, by Federal Express courier, upon the following:

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